



This is the testimony of Asthérie, a survivor of the Rwandan genocide

I am from Kibungo, and was raped at the age of 17. My brother, nephew and father were massacred and I was abducted from a place near my home. A militiaman took me to his home, claiming he was rescuing me.

He lived with his mother, brother and sister. There was also another girl there that his brother had brought to be his wife. They told me that they wanted to save my life. At about 7:00 p.m. he led me into his bedroom. His brother was with the other girl in another bedroom. I fought against him, but he was stronger than me. He raped me twice that night. I kept quiet because I knew that there were other people in the house who could make fun of me. During the day, he used to go to the roadblocks to kill Tutsis. The second day, he got home late and did exactly as he'd done the night before.

Three days later, the militiaman heard that the forces of the Rwandan Patriotic Army (RPA) were in the area and he fled to Kabarondo district, taking me with him. He moved into the home of an old lady and I was sent to work in her fields every day for a week, until the RPA evacuated me to Kayonza. There, I was reunited with two of my sisters and my stepmother.

Today's Reading of the Testimonies marks the 15th Anniversary of the Rwandan genocide, in support of survivors like Asthérie.